



Senate Majority
Communications Office

NEWS RELEASE

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Senator Gilbert Hits Ground Running

Legislator Sworn into Michigan Senate, Introduces First Legislative Bill

(LANSING) – Senator Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, was formally sworn into the Michigan Senate today and immediately introduced his first piece of legislation that would alter the way farmland is taxed.

“Being sworn into the state Senate today is truly a memorable and exciting occasion for me,” Gilbert said. “I am eager to begin working for the residents of the 25th Senate District.”

Senator Gilbert was joined at the ceremony by his mother, Mary Gilbert, brother John Gilbert and friends and supporters Chris Miller and Scott Dedene. The oath-of-office was administered by Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan. All 38 members of the Michigan Senate were sworn in during the ceremony.

Gilbert accepted the oath by promising to “support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Michigan and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of office of Senator according to the best of my ability.”

Senator Gilbert also introduced his first piece of legislation today, Senate Bill 2, which would create the Alternative Agricultural Production Tax Act, under which farmland could be exempted from the general property tax and instead be subject to an alternative tax based on agricultural use value.

“This bill provides a new approach to taxing farmland based on its value for agricultural purposes rather than its development value,” Gilbert said. “Rather than impose a statewide system, it allows local units to create special districts within which farmland can be assessed based on its

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value as agricultural property rather than its value to developers.”

Agricultural use value would be a value calculated by a method determined by the State Tax Commission in consultation with the Department of Agriculture.

The alternative tax would only apply to property for which an agricultural production exemption certificate had been approved by the local unit of government and the State Tax Commission. Such a certificate would only be available in an agricultural production district designated by a local unit of government.

Senate Bill 2 awaits a committee hearing before it is moved to the full Senate floor.

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Editor’s Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Gilbert being sworn into the state Senate is available on the Senate photowire at: www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/photowire.

An audio clip of Senator Gilbert being administered the oath-of-office will be available after 3 p.m. the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000.